

Message Text

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COMMERCE - MR. KLEIN

TREASURY - MR. CANNER

FAS/AGRICULTURE - MR. BROWN

----- 116394

R 052251Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRO, TH, JA

SUBJ: PROPOSED US/THAI ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS

REFS: (A) BANGKOK 3519 (B) STATE 33090

1. WE CONCUR IN THE DISCUSSION FORMAT PROPOSED BY DR. SNOH-
A GENERAL SURVEY MEETING FOLLOWED BY SEPARATE MEETINGS
WITH WASHINGTON OFFICIALS. FOLLOWING ARE OUR INITIAL
THOUGHTS ON A POSSIBLE SCHEDULE, SUBJECT TO FUTURE MODIFI-
CATION.

2. WE PROPOSE TO OPEN WITH A MEETING AT THE DEPARTMENT AND
TENTATIVELY PLAN TO RECOMMEND THAT THIS MEETING BE CHAIRED
BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL. SENIOR LEVEL OFFICIALS
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OF RELEVANT OFFICES IN STATE AND OTHER AGENCIES WOULD BE

INVITED. DISCUSSION WOULD BE DEVOTED TO A GENERAL REVIEW OF US/THAI ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND ISSUES WITH OFFICIALS IN FIELDS OF TRADE POLICY, COMMODITIES AND INVESTMENT. MEETING COULD BE FOLLOWED BY CALLS ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES AND FOOD POLICY, AND DIRECTOR OFFICE INTERNATIONAL TRADE. IN THE AFTERNOON THAI DELEGATES WOULD MEET AT COMMERCE POSSIBLY WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY AND RESEARCH AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE.

3. FOR THE SECOND DAY, WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THAI DELEGATION VISIT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE MORNING TO DISCUSS P.L. 480 PROGRAMS AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL ISSUES. FOR THAT AFTERNOON, WE SUGGEST THE THAIS MEET WITH WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COUNCIL. THIS IS A GROUP OF TWENTY MAJOR CORPORATE EXECUTIVES WHO ARE INTERESTED IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS ON ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL POLICY QUESTIONS.

4. SINCE MONETARY AFFAIRS ARE NOT A PARTICULAR BILATERAL PROBLEM BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THAILAND, WE ARE NOT PROPOSING A SEPARATE MEETING WITH TREASURY OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, IF THE THAIS WISH TO DISCUSS ANY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS AS APPROPRIATE. IN ADDITION TO SUCH ISSUES AS FERTILIZER NEEDS, SCRAP AND TEXTILE QUOTAS, U.S. P.L. 480 AND AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY SALES IN WHICH THE THAI HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST, WE WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS THAI TRADE AND INVESTMENT POLICY. SINCE SUGAR QUOTA LEGISLATION WILL PROBABLY BE NEARLY COMPLETED BY TIME DISCUSSIONS MAY BE HELD, WE DOUBT THIS ITEM NEED BE ON AGENDA.

5. WE UNDERSTAND FROM A SOURCE AT IBRD THAT THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR JUNE MAY BE POSTPONED UNTIL FALL OR POSSIBLY NOT HELD AT ALL IN 1974. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO QUERY THAIS ON THIS POINT AND, IF ACCURATE, ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN SUITABLE TIME FOR BILATERAL TALKS. WE WOULD NEED AT LEAST FOUR TO SIX WEEKS ADVANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTICE TO COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS.

6. IN LIGHT OF RECENT INDIVIDUAL VISITS TO BANGKOK BY DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL AND SECRETARY BUTZ, JUNE WOULD APPEAR TO BE EARLY IN ANY EVENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE THAT WHEN THIS TOPIC WAS RAISED WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN, MR. RUSH REPLIED THAT THE IDEA OF A PERIODIC

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WAS AN EXCELLENT ONE, HOWEVER, THAT
AMBASSADOR KINTNER AND HISSTAFF COULD HANDLE THIS EXCHANGE
IN COUNTRY SINCE THE U.S. LOOKED TO THE AMBASSADOR TO HEAD
ALL OFFICIAL AMERICAN EFFORTS IN THAILAND EXCEPT THE
PURELY MILITARY COMMAND. IN VIEW OF THIS, AND THE POSSIBLE
SLIPPAGE IN TIMING OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING, WE
WONDER IF THE THAI INTEREST IN WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS HAS
DIMINISHED TO ANY EXTENT. RUSH

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